

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated August 17, 2006, in which the Examiner states that “the currently amended claims do not have markings to show changes made.”

Applicants have re-printed the response to show the amendments.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-14 are now pending.

Claims 15-47 have been cancelled.

Claim 48-52 are new.

Objection to claims 5 and 47

The Examiner asserts that “Claim 5 recites a method of making the permselective membrane, but fails to further limit . . . the membrane itself.” Claim 5 requires that the permselective membrane be deposited by CVD. Applicants respectfully submit that this recitation does in fact limit the membrane. The recitation distinguishes CVD-deposited membranes from membranes deposited by other means, such as sol-gel techniques. As shown in the attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B (see highlighted passages), chemical vapor deposition (CVD) is different from sol-gel deposition and results in a different structure for the deposited layer. Thus, claim 5 does recite a further limitation over the recitation of claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to claim 47 is moot, as claim 47 has been canceled.

Rejection of claim 47 under § 112, second paragraph

The rejection of claim 47 is also moot, as claim 47 has been canceled.

Rejection of claims 1-9 as anticipated by US 4865630 to Abe

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 10, which was indicated to be allowable. Claim 1 is therefore now in condition for allowance, along with the claims that depend from it.

Rejection of claims 13-14 as anticipated by US 4865630 to Abe

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 10, which was indicated to be allowable. Claim 13 is therefore now in condition for allowance, along with claim 14, which depends from it.

Allowable Claims

Claim 10 has been cancelled and its limitation has been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 11-12, which formerly depended from claim 10, have been amended to depend from claim 1.

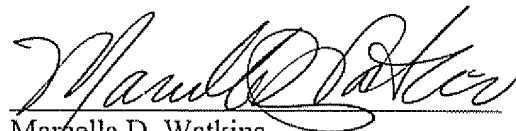
New claims

New claims 48-52, which depend from claim 1, have been added to recite the invention in further detail. The new claims do not include any new subject matter and are wholly supported by the specification as-filed.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that they have responded to all of the Examiner's objections and rejections and that the case is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or otherwise feels it would be advantageous, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



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